



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: LA GRECA, Gaetano

SERIAL NO.: 10/511,524

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EXAMINER: Mai, T.M .

TITLE: BACKPACK ATTACHMENT FOR IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF THE
BACKPACK WEIGHT ACROSS A USER'S SHOULDERS

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled). Please cancel Claims 1 - 17 and substitute Claims 18 - 19
therefor as follows.

18. (new) An apparatus comprising:

a backpack having a bag-shaped body and a pair of shoulder straps
extending from said body, said pair of shoulder straps suitable for extending directly over
shoulders of a user;

a first plurality of substantially inflexible curved members hingedly
connected together, said first plurality of substantially inflexible curved members having a
channel extending interiorly therethrough, one of said pair of shoulder straps extending through
said channel, at least one of said first plurality of substantially inflexible curved members
positioned adjacent an upper region of said bag-shaped body, said first plurality of substantially
inflexible curved members being slidable along said one of said pair of shoulder straps; and

a second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members hingedly
connected together, said second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members having a
channel extending interiorly therethrough, another of said pair of shoulder straps extending

through said channel of said second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members, at least one of said second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members positioned adjacent said upper region of said bag-shaped body, and second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members being slidable along said another of said pair of shoulder straps.

19. (new) The apparatus of Claim 18, each of said first and second plurality of substantially inflexible curved members having an underside lined with a soft yielding material.